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 Council of the European Union General Secretariat	
<b>Working Party on Latin America and the Caribbean (COLAC)</b>	
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**Jorge Valdez**  
Executive Director

Members of the EU-LAC Foundation Board of Governors.-

Hamburg, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2015

Sir/Madam,

With the present letter, please allow me to take the opportunity to inform you of the recent launch of an initiative of the EU-LAC Foundation's work programme "Explore", the next edition of the Foundation's Open Call for research projects related to EU-LAC relations, as foreseen under the Work Plan for the year 2015 approved by the Board of Governors in November 2014. Under this call, the Foundation will sponsor individual researchers or research consortia pertaining to academic disciplines of the social sciences or humanities with up to 25.210 Euros in order to carry out investigations on topics of relevance to the bi-regional partnership. Proposals will be evaluated by the Foundation's Academic Council, an independent body consisting of five renowned academics from both regions who are experts on EU-LAC relations and/or the International Relations, Political Science, and Economics of their respective home region.

The Open Call has been launched twice per year, the autumn deadline being set for 30 September and the spring deadline being set for 31 March. The Call is part of the Foundation's effort to fulfil its mandate to "encourage debate [...] for example through publications", *inter alia* through "encouraging studies on issues identified by both regions."<sup>1</sup> Each Call will award one grant.

The Foundation appreciates any diffusion you may wish to give to the Open Call in the academic networks of your own country. In order to do so, we are attaching the pertinent documents for applicants. To obtain further information on the Call, please do not hesitate to visit the Foundation's website at [www.eulacfoundation.org/opencall](http://www.eulacfoundation.org/opencall), or to address any questions directly to the Manager for Research and New Developments of the "Explore" Programme, Dr. Anna Barrera at [abarrera@eulacfoundation.org](mailto:abarrera@eulacfoundation.org). We look forward to receiving applications for the Call from all member States.

Let me use this opportunity to assure you of my highest consideration and esteem.

Jorge Valdez  
Executive Director

<sup>1</sup> Statutes of the European Union – Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC Foundation), Art. 2 (1) and (2).